

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims regarding the present application. In reading this, text added by the amendment is underlined and text that is deleted is shown in [[double brackets]].

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants on a cosmetic brush, the apparatus comprising:
  - a. a cosmetic brush including a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and plastic;
  - b. at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the handle portion of the brush; and
  - c. an enclosure including at least one opening,  
wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further wherein when the handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[2]] 1 wherein in the event the handle is formed of stainless steel, the handle portion of the brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is inserted into the aperture.
4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the brush with a crimp.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.
7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.
8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.
9. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:
  - a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure; and
  - b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into the filler material.
- 10 - 18 (Cancelled).
19. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic brush for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the cosmetic brush comprising:
  - a. a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and plastic; and
  - b. a set of bristles coupled to the handle portion of the cosmetic brush.
20. (Original) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 19 further comprising:
  - a. at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the handle portion of the cosmetic brush; and
  - b. an enclosure including at least one opening,  
wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further wherein when the handle portion of the cosmetic brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the cosmetic brush is entirely within the

enclosure and configured such that the cosmetic brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim [[21]] 20 wherein in the event the handle is formed of stainless steel, the handle portion of the cosmetic brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is inserted into the aperture and the set of bristles are coupled to the upper handle portion of the cosmetic brush with a crimp.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

25. (Original) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.

26. (Original) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.

27. (Original) The cosmetic brush as claimed in claim 20 wherein the at least one opening and the endcap have a round shape, further wherein the endcap includes:

a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure to remain in place until removed; and

b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned in the filler material.

28 - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an apparatus resistant to the growth and spread of contaminants, the method comprising:

a. coupling a set of bristles to a handle portion of a brush, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and plastic;

b. inserting the handle portion of the brush into an aperture of at least one endcap;

c. fashioning an enclosure including at least one opening, and

d. inserting the at least one endcap into the at least one opening,

wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further wherein when the handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[39]] 38 wherein in the event the handle is formed of stainless steel, the handle portion of the brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion, wherein the lower handle portion is inserted into the aperture.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

43. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.

44. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.

45. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:

- a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure to remain in place until removed; and
- b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into the filler material.

46. (Original) An apparatus for resisting the growth and spread of contaminants, the apparatus comprising:

- a. a cosmetic brush including a handle portion, wherein the handle portion is fashioned from a stainless steel material and the handle portion of the brush includes an upper handle portion and a lower handle portion;
- b. a set of bristles coupled to the upper handle portion of the brush with a crimp;
- c. at least one endcap including an aperture, wherein the aperture is fashioned to receive the lower handle portion of the brush; and
- d. an enclosure including at least one opening,  
wherein the at least one endcap is fashioned to close the at least one opening, and further wherein when the lower handle portion of the brush is inserted into the aperture and the at least one endcap is inserted into the at least one opening, the brush is entirely within the enclosure and configured such that the brush is not in contact with an inner surface of the enclosure.

47. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure has a cylindrical shape, wherein the at least one opening is positioned at the end of the cylinder.

48. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a contaminant resistant material.

49. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the enclosure is fashioned from a transparent material.

50. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein the at least one opening and the at least one endcap have a round shape, further wherein the at least one endcap includes:

a. a plug configured to be inserted into the at least one opening, wherein the plug is configured to substantially maintain sufficient contact with the inner surface of the enclosure to remain in place until removed; and

b. filler material configured in the plug such that the aperture can be fashioned into the filler material.